

acquainted with all our common birds, and who stated that "he never before saw any birds of a similar kind." Dr. Crisp also thought that near a wood where Squirrels, Jays and Magpies were abundant, as in this locality, the bird might sometimes cover its nest. Mr. Wolf informed him, "that he once found a nest of this description in Germany, which he believed was that of the Grey Shrike."

November 10, 1857.

Dr. Gray, F.R.S., V.P., in the Chair.

The following papers were read:—

1. ON SEVERAL NEW SPECIES OF BIRDS FROM VARIOUS PARTS OF THE WORLD. BY JOHN GOULD, V.P., F.R.S. ETC.

Mr. Gould called attention to three species of Australian birds collected by Mr. Elsey during the recent expedition under A. C. Gregory, Esq., from the Victoria River on the north-west coast to Moreton Bay: two of these birds were of especial beauty and interest, viz. a *Psephotus* and a *Malurus*. The former is allied both to the *P. pulcherrimus* and *P. multicolor*, but differs from either, among other characters, by the rich yellow mark on the shoulder; and the *Malurus* is distinguished from all the other members of its genus by its larger size and by the beautiful lilac circlet which adorns the crown. The third species alluded to was a *Petroica*, allied to the *P. superciliosa*, a bird discovered by the late Mr. Gilbert in the neighbourhood of the Burdekin Lakes, and which with the present would admit of separation from the other species of the genus.

For the Parrakeet Mr. Gould proposed the name of

PSEPHOTUS CHRYSOPTERYGIUS.

Male.—Band across the forehead, extending above the eye to its posterior angle, very pale yellow; on the centre of the crown a patch of black; sides of the head, cheeks, neck, throat, upper portion of the abdomen, lower part of the back, rump and upper tail-coverts, verditer blue, somewhat greener on the cheeks and upper tail-coverts; immediately below the eye a tinge of yellow; back of the neck, back and scapularies, light greyish-brown, slightly tinged with green; shoulder and lesser wing-coverts fine yellow; primaries and secondaries black, margined externally with blue; feathers of the lower part of the abdomen, vent, and under tail-coverts, light scarlet, margined with greyish green; two centre tail feathers dark green at the base, passing into deep blue towards the extremity, and tipped with dull black; the remaining tail feathers light green crossed by an

irregular oblique band of dull bluish black, beyond which they become of a paler glaucous green, until they end in white; but each has a dark stain of bluish green on the outer margin near the tip; irides brown; bill and nostrils bluish horn-colour; feet mealy grey.

Total length, 11 inches; bill, $\frac{3}{8}$; wing, $4\frac{1}{4}$; tail, 7; tarsi, $\frac{1}{2}$.

Female.—Similar to the male in colour, but all the hues much paler, and the markings much less strongly defined.

Young.—In this state the whole of the head, all the upper surface, wing-coverts, throat, and breast are of a pale glaucous green; the rump and upper tail-coverts and the tail similar to the same parts in the male, but not so bright; and the lower part of the abdomen is greyish white, with faint stains of scarlet.

In the notes accompanying the specimens, Mr. Elsey states that they were procured on the 14th of Sept., 1856, in lat. 18° S. and long. $141^{\circ}30'$ E., that their crops contained some monocotyledonous seeds, and that the *os furcatorium* was small, but well-developed; of this he was certain, as he had a discussion with Mr. Gregory on the subject, and dissected on the same day *Platycercus palliceps* and *Aprosmictus erythropterus*, and noticed that while the former was entirely destitute of that bone, and had only a weak ligamentous band in its place, the latter had a distinct *os furcatorium* closely resembling that of *Psephotus*. He remarked, too, that the flight of the *Psephotus* was swift and decided; and adds, that he never saw it on the ground, although the contents of its crop would indicate that it obtained its food there.

The *Malurus* he designated

MALURUS CORONATUS.

Male.—Crown of the head rich lilac purple, with a triangular spot of black in the centre, and bounded below by a band of velvety black, which commencing at the nostrils passes backwards through the eye, dilates upon the ear-coverts, and meets at the back of the neck; back and wings light brown; tail bluish green, becoming of a deeper hue towards the extremity; lateral feathers margined externally and tipped with white; under surface buffy white, becoming gradually deeper on the flanks and vent; irides brown; bill black; feet fleshy brown.

Total length, $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches; bill, $\frac{3}{4}$; wing, $2\frac{1}{4}$; tail, $3\frac{5}{8}$; tarsi, $1\frac{1}{8}$.

Female.—All the upper surface light brown; lores and space behind the eye white; ear-coverts chestnut; in other respects similar to the male.

Hab. Victoria River, North-Western Australia.

The *Petroica* he proposed to call

PETROICA? CERVINIVENTRIS.

All the upper surface, wings and tail chocolate-brown; line over the eye, throat, tips of the greater wing-coverts, base of the primaries, base and tips of the secondaries, and tips of the tail, white;

breast grey; abdomen deep fawn colour, becoming almost white in the centre; bill black; feet blackish brown; irides dark brown.

Total length, $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches; bill, $\frac{3}{4}$; wing, $3\frac{1}{4}$; tail, $3\frac{1}{4}$; tarsi, $\frac{7}{8}$.

Hab. Victoria River, North-western Australia.

The three birds above described are in the British Museum.

The next species to which he directed attention was a new Hawk belonging to the genus *Spilornis*, and which differs remarkably from the *S. undulatus* or Bacha of the continent of India, and the *S. holospilus* of Manilla.

For this bird he proposed the appellation of

SPILORNIS RUFPECTUS.

Crown of the head and the lengthened feathers of the occiput deep black, the occipital plumes margined at the tip with rufous; feathers at the nape black, margined with rufous, showing conspicuously; all the upper surface and wings dark chocolate-brown, with paler edges; chin and sides of the neck greyish black; chest deep cinnamon-brown; primaries and secondaries blotched with white at intervals on their internal web; under wing-coverts, abdomen, vent, thighs, and under tail-coverts cinnamon-brown, crossed by bands composed of two large spots of white bounded above and below with a narrow line of black; tail dark brown, crossed near the base by a narrow and not very distinct band of greyish, and near the apex by broad bands of a lighter hue passing into whitish on the edges of the internal webs and narrowly edged at the tip with pale reddish-brown and white; bill blackish-brown; the cere, naked orbits, and feet appear to have been yellow.

Total length, $19\frac{1}{2}$ inches; bill, $1\frac{3}{8}$; wing, $13\frac{1}{4}$; tail, 9; tarsi, $2\frac{3}{4}$.

Hab. Celebes, vicinity of Macassar. From the collection of Mr. Wallace.

The next was a highly interesting species of Bullfinch, which he designated

PYRRHULA AURANTIACA.

Male. Bill, face, wings, and tail deep purplish-black; rump, upper and under tail-coverts white; the remainder of the upper and under surfaces rich reddish-orange, deepest above; the lesser wing-coverts are also reddish-orange, as is the apical half of the innermost of the greater wing-coverts, while the outer ones are slightly tipped with buffy-white; irides black; feet pinky-flesh colour.

Total length, $5\frac{1}{8}$ inches; wing, $3\frac{1}{4}$; tail, $2\frac{3}{8}$; tarsi, $\frac{5}{8}$.

Female. Has the black circle round the bill; head and neck ash-coloured; back ash colour, tinged with orange-red; lower parts like those of the male, but much less brilliant and approaching to olive.

For his knowledge of this pretty species Mr. Gould was indebted to the researches of Dr. A. Leith Adams of the 22nd Regiment, who killed it on the Western Himalayas, and who informs me that he

first met with it in the month of March 1852, on one of the wooded slopes of the Pir Pinjal Mountains, westward of the valley of Cashmere; its habits closely resemble those of *P. erythrocephala*, frequenting as it does thick bushy places, and being usually seen in small societies. It is not uncommon in the valleys and jungles around Cashmere. Dr. Adams remarks that, although the two species are so similar in their habits and in the localities they frequent, he never met with them in company; but noticed that while the *P. erythrocephala* is tolerably abundant in the ranges around Simla, the present species was only seen on the hills in the neighbourhood and to the westward of Cashmere. Its call is not so loud as that of *P. vulgaris*, and somewhat resembles the chirp of the Greenfinch, *Chlorospiza chloris*.

For a new Motmot Mr. Gould proposed the name of

MOMOTUS ÆQUATORIALIS.

Crown of the head deep black, surrounded by a zone of verditer green, to which succeeds a line of fine deep blue from the anterior portion of one eye round the occiput to the anterior portion of the other; to this succeeds a fringe of deep black from the nostrils round the back of the neck; lores, space below the eye and ear-coverts black, with a very fine fringe of blue on the lower edge and a small tuft of verditer green at its hinder extremity; all the upper surface green, washed with cinnamon on the shoulders; primaries green on their external webs, black on the inner; tail dark bluish-green; under surface green, washed with cinnamon and with a tuft of broad round black feathers, margined at their base with verditer green, in the centre of the breast; bill black; feet blackish-brown.

Total length, 16 inches; bill, $2\frac{1}{8}$; wing, $6\frac{1}{2}$; tail, $8\frac{3}{4}$; tarsi, $1\frac{1}{4}$.

Hab. Archidona, near the Equatorial line, on a branch of the Rio Napo.

Remark.—This is a large and robust species, and differs from all others in the broad spatulate feathers of the breast tuft.

A very fine *Odontophorus*, remarkable for the rich chestnut-red colouring of its under surface, received the appellation of

ODONTOPHORUS HYPERYTHRUS.

Crown of the head, wings, and upper surface of the body dark brown, minutely freckled with black; orbits naked, beset with minute white feathers continued in a stripe behind the eye; on the centre of the back and wing-coverts are large blotches of velvety-black; and at the tip of the innermost secondaries a small oval spot of buff; throat, sides of the chest, breast, and abdomen dark chestnut-red; vent, thighs, and under tail-coverts blackish-brown, indistinctly banded with dark sandy red; tail nearly black; bill and feet blackish-brown.

Total length, 10 inches; bill, $\frac{7}{8}$; wings, $5\frac{3}{4}$; tail, $2\frac{1}{2}$; tarsi, $2\frac{1}{8}$.

Hab. Santa Fé de Bogota.

Remark.—For this bird Mr. Gould is indebted to the Messrs. Verreaux of Paris, who obtained it in a collection from Santa Fé de Bogota. In size it fully equals, if it does not exceed, *O. dentatus* and *O. speciosus*, from which latter it differs in the total absence of any black on the throat.

2. NOTES ON AN UNNAMED PARROT FROM THE ISLAND OF ST. DOMINGO, NOW LIVING IN THE SOCIETY'S GARDENS; AND ON SOME OTHER SPECIES OF THE SAME FAMILY. BY PHILIP LUTLEY SCLATER, M.A.

(Aves, Pl. CXXVII.)

M. Auguste Sallé has called my attention to the fact, that the White-fronted Parrot of San Domingo, commonly regarded as the immature state of *Chrysotis leucocephala*, is in truth quite a different species from that bird. It may be distinguished at once by having no red on the throat and a narrower white frontal band than the true *leucocephala*, which is from Cuba. M. Sallé, who has had ample opportunities of observing this bird in its natural state, is confident as to its distinctness, and I have no doubt he is quite right. Under these circumstances, I propose to call the San Domingan bird, which has not yet received a specific designation, *Chrysotis Sallæi*,—a just tribute to one who has made such extensive discoveries in the Natural History of the New World, and is the only modern naturalist who has explored the still imperfectly-known zoology of the island which it inhabits.

The true *Chrysotis leucocephala* is figured in Edward's 'Gleanings,' vol. iv. pl. 166, as "*The White-fronted Parrot*," and by Buffon in the 'Planches Enluminées' as the "*Perroquet à front blanc du Sénégal*," and "*Perroquet de la Martinique*," nos. 335 and 549. It is also well represented by Le Vaillant as the male of "*Le Perroquet à face rouge*" (pl. 107 et 107 bis). It is included in the revised list of Cuban birds lately published in Cabanis' Journal; and specimens in the collection of the Academy of Philadelphia were procured by Mr. Richard Taylor in that island.

Examples of this bird likewise occur in the British Museum, and there is a specimen now living in the Society's gardens.

The *Chrysotis Sallæi* is figured by Buffon in his 'Planches Enluminées,' no. 548, as the "*Perroquet à ventre pourpre de la Martinique*." Specimens collected by M. Sallé in San Domingo are in the British Museum and at the Jardin des Plantes at Paris, and there are two fine examples now living in the Society's gardens.

There is likewise living in the Society's gardens an example of another nearly allied species of Parrot, which has also been sometimes confounded with the true *Chrysotis leucocephala*. This is the Red-fronted Parrot (*Chrysotis vittata*) figured in the 'Planches Enluminées' under the title of "*Perroquet de S. Dominique*," and often called by Gmelin's specific name "*dominicensis*." It is not,